

Vermont Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

1.	10:00	Call to Order	Devon Green and Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs
2.	10:05	Roll Call Establish Quorum Approve Previous Minutes	Zack Goss, Health Care Training and Communication Manager (Department of Vermont Health Access, "DVHA")
3.	10:15	DVHA Commissioner and Committee Member Introductions	Andrea De La Bruere, Commissioner (DVHA) Devon Green and Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs
4.	10:40	State Fiscal Year 2023 DVHA Budget Overview	Steve Wisloski, Chief Financial Officer (DVHA)
5.	11:05	Home- and Community- Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan Update	Wendy Trafton, Deputy Director, Office of Health Care Reform (Agency of Human Services)
6.	11:25	Commissioner's Office Update	Andrea De La Bruere, Commissioner (DVHA) Sandi Hoffman, Deputy Commissioner (DVHA) Nissa James, Health Care Director (DVHA)
7.	11:45	Public Comment	Devon Green and Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs
8.	11:55	Final Committee Discussion	Devon Green and Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs
9.	12:00	Adjourn	Devon Green and Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs

January 24, 2022
10am-12pm

Roll Call, Quorum, November 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Zack Goss, Health Care Training and Communication Manager (DVHA)

DVHA Commissioner and Committee Member Introductions

Andrea De La Bruere, Commissioner (DVHA)

Devon Green and Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs

State Fiscal Year 2023 DVHA Budget Overview

Steve Wisloski, Chief Financial Officer (DVHA)

Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan Update

Wendy Trafton, Deputy Director, Office of Health Care Reform
(Agency of Human Services)

Overview

- Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act offers states an unprecedented opportunity to enhance, expand and strengthen home and community-based services (HCBS) under the Medicaid program. The program provides states with a 10% federal medical assistance percentage or FMAP increase for Medicaid home and community-based services.
- Estimated projections indicate that the State of Vermont will claim over \$65M attributable to the increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (or FMAP).
- This funding will be employed as the state share required to implement approved activities valued at \$146.6M.

HCBS Spending Plan Approval

- CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) initially granted partial approval pending responses to clarifying questions.
- The state clarified that mental health-related and permanent supportive housing activities in the plan are focused on allowable HCB services and populations.
- Questions were resolved and as of mid-January '22 CMS has granted new partial approval pending a clarifying question about the Capital Investment grant opportunity that was added to the plan in October '21.
- The State will clarify that funds will only be available to providers of HCBS when the next quarterly report is submitted on February 1, 2022.

HCBS spending plan feedback

- AHS held a public comment period after the development of the initial HCBS Spending Plan and had robust participation in public hearings and received written comments with over 125 ideas and suggestions for funding uses including but not limited to:
 - Independent direct support providers and workforce issues;
 - adding additional individual and family supports;
 - addressing HCBS residential options and transportation;
 - additional service needs;
 - capital improvement and technology needs;
 - recruitment and retention funding and
 - payment rates.

Implementation Planning

A cross-department workgroup reviewed feedback and updates were made to the October quarterly report. The public feedback will continue to inform planning.

The October report included the following additional activities:

- Contractor support to explore HCBS residential alternative options;
- Temporary increases in current limits or caps on assistive devices and home modifications, related specialized treatment plan services, and environmental and assistive technology within the Choices for Care, Developmental Disability Services and Brain Injury Programs;
- Rate increases for substance use treatment providers in the ADAP Preferred Provider network in alignment with 3% rate increases to mental health, developmental disabilities, Brain Injury Program, and Choices for Care providers;

Implementation Planning Cont'd

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- Contractor support to perform rate studies and develop methodology updates for HCBS;
- A pilot program to identify the need for appropriate assistive technology and home modification changes through inspections at Adult Family Care and Shared Living Provider sites;
- Purchase of pediatric palliative care supply carts for providers that offer Pediatric Palliative Care Program services; and
- A Capital Investments grant opportunity to support HCBS providers with necessary capital improvements that enhance and strengthen HCBS through a one-time investment that can be used for purposes such as increasing accessibility, promoting safety, improving services, promoting provider sustainability, and increasing energy efficiency.

- Rate increases approved by the legislature last session with this funding have been implemented.
- AHS has requested an appropriation from the legislature for the remaining funding and departments are preparing for implementation of activities once funds are appropriated.

Example:

AHS is preparing an RFR for a stakeholder engagement contractor, and a technical assistance contractor to support the State's implementation of its HCBS Conflict of Interest Plan that was submitted to CMS in December.

Commissioner's Office Update

Andrea De La Bruere, Commissioner (DVHA)

Sandi Hoffman, Deputy Commissioner (DVHA)

Nissa James, Health Care Director (DVHA)

Public Comment & Final Committee Discussion

Adjourn

Devon Green and Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs